

SeniorNet (Pakuranga) Inc
12 BenLomond Cres, Pakuranga Heights, 2010
Telephone 09 576 4500

JUNE 2023

Established in 1996 especially for Pakuranga, Howick and Botany residents

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- ◆ June Help days
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Our next Meeting,

Friday, 2nd JUNE

at 10.00am

St Andrews Church Centre
Corner Ridge Rd and Vincent St

The main entrance is in Vincent Street with parking in the grounds and disabled parking near the basement entrance.



Visitors welcome

Don't forget coffee will be served from 9.50 to 10.10.

After Brian opens our meeting Kate will continue to educate us on Apps that can make our lives more interesting.

Our main speaker will be Phil SaiLoui. His talk is called "The Way We Were" and covers changes within NZ society over the years—since 1940.

JUNE HELP DAYS

Thurs	1 June	10am
Tues	6 June	10am
Wed	14 June	10am
Wed	21 June	10am
Thurs	29 June	10am

We are restarting assistance for Windows 10/11, Photos and how to negotiate the Genealogy process in Roots Magic. These will be limited to one-on-one during selected Help days. To avoid extra members turning up for either Photos or Genealogy please email help@senpak.nz to ask for a confirmed spot in the Help calendar. On some days the relevant tutors may not be available.

We have sadly lost a good and loyal member, **DOUG WHITE**

Doug came to our aid when we had short notice to vacate the learning centre at Te Tuhi about 15 years ago to enable a tertiary institution to set up some local classes.

The committee at the time scrambled to find alternatives even asking for assistance from Mayor Barry Curtis but a solution was elusive. Thank you Doug for that aid.

Over the 15 years Doug and Cascade Storage have been very generous in their support and until recently Doug and Jan coordinated the morning tea function and personally donated special Christmas morning teas for us.

Our deepest sympathy to you Jan and to your family. Doug will be missed.

The SeniorNet Federation Symposium and AMG was held in Lower Hutt with live Zoom access also enabled. The Federation is “owned” by the contributing independent SeniorNet like Pakuranga and operates for their common good and sharing of information.

The opportunity was taken by the current Federation committee to recommend and have approved significant changes that recognise the reducing number of member SeniorNets and fewer enrolled members. The Federation management committee will reduce from eight to four members, each elected by a local region of roughly equal numbers but recognising practical geographical barriers in forming these regions. The South Island is one region and the North Island is divided into three. There will be no permanent employed staff but the committee will have the ability to engage paid help for some duties. These changes will now be used to update the Federation constitution rules. Without these changes the coffers would quickly have been exhausted.

The significant reduction in the number of SeniorNet operating has come about by many factors such as improved general digital knowledge in the population, the difficulty of maintaining committee, tutors and volunteers, particularly as members age and they have other family priority commitments.

We are in the same pressing situation with our committee, tutors and meeting volunteers. We need more committee back-up as we find members of the committee are helping others in their family or are themselves experiencing health issues. Many of us on the committee have been in that role for ages. In recent years few nominations have been received so there is no succession and if this occurs again at our October AGM, and some current members don't accept nomination, we may not be able to form a committee. This would have major consequences for our existence.

If that happens, and it's the members who will determine this, it's an indication we have out lived our usefulness. As an Incorporated Society and Registered Charity our constitution requires on closing that we meet all current debts, cancel any service contracts, refund unexpired portions of your membership subscriptions, donate any items purchased with grants not already written off to a like organisation, sell any items we have directly purchased and donate all residual funds to a like organisation. It is a requirement that no member “benefits” from this action.

If you can see your way to help please email me at brian@senpak.nz. Thank you in advance.

On a happier note the Federation symposium also relaunched SeniorHangouts as SeniorHangouts 2. This is free but limited to SeniorNet members and will provide live and archived access to a great range of technical instruction. This will enable interest groups to thrive by recruiting over the whole membership rather than just in a local SeniorNet. Members can also contribute new material by enlisting into a suitable timeslot. The result should be a broader range of topics which you can access from home as they are delivered or in the archive at a time to suit you with the ability to pause, rewind, and go at your own pace. Its not limited to home as I also envisage a group using it in the Learning Centre under the guidance of a tutor.

One plan is to feature selected SeniorNets as Hubs for members too distant to regularly participate in local SeniorNet or where their local SeniorNet has closed.

Watch out for more information as SeniorHangouts2 gets up to speed.

Ramblings

Dawn Howarth

I have had a lovely time watching the Coronation, even the concert although much of that was too modern for me. Being a Royalist all my life, I was so pleased for our new King and Queen, even if it did rain on their parade. I was afraid of protesters doing something awful but I think they were outnumbered by other royalists, not to mention police and soldiers by the thousand. It was a grand ceremony with exquisite singing. I saw Harry give an ever so small bow to the King as they were leaving the Abbey and that was good too. I hope it will be a happy reign for both Charles and Camilla—they deserve it.

Today I learnt that two more of our committee will be out of action for a month or more. Please heed Brian's plea for help on our committee. It is your club too, and without help, there will soon be no club at all. Of 10 committee members, only 3 are apparently healthy or caregiving-free, the rest limp along doing their best to keep our wonderful SeniorNet up and running. There is nothing scary about helping, lots of guidance is there for you.

On Air – Radio Apps



Radio Garden is a phone app that revolutionizes the way we explore and experience radio broadcasts from around the world. There are over 30,000 radio stations to be accessed. It allows users to tune into live streams from virtually any corner of the globe



The app presents a 3D globe interface, where you can navigate and zoom in to various locations.

There are small green dots scattered across the globe, each dot representing a radio station, or a cluster of stations. The Paris dot gives access to 478 stations waiting to be discovered by just a simple tap.

Rather than simply selecting stations from a list, users can spin the globe, zoom in on cities, and click on individual stations to listen in real-time. You can take a virtual trip around the world, discovering local music, news, and diverse perspectives from different cultures.



The app provides information about each station including its name, location, and even its historical significance. This contextual information enriches the listening experience and allows users to appreciate the cultural context and significance of the stations they discover. Whether you are an ex-pat yearning for a taste of home or a curious soul eager to explore the world's airwaves, Radio Garden provides an unparalleled platform to connect with global communities through radio.



The Radio New Zealand (RNZ) app allows you to stay updated with the latest news, listen to live radio broadcasts, explore on-demand podcasts, and delve into an extensive archive of past shows.

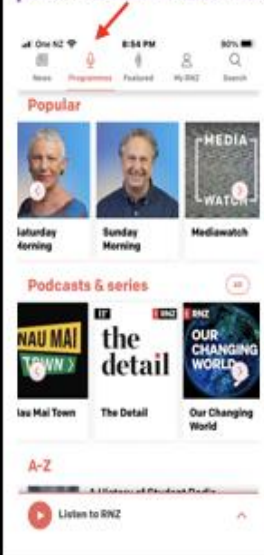
If you have ever turned on the radio and heard the last few moments of a recipe or a Kim Hill interview and wished you had heard the whole segment then the RNZ app is the one for you.

With a few clicks past segments from particular programmes can be easily retrieved and particular programmes can be accessed in their entirety.

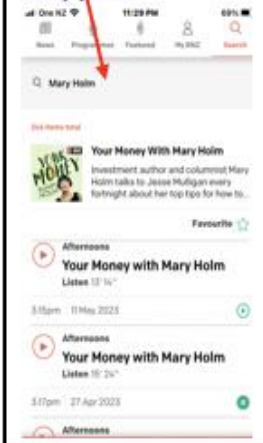
The app delivers real-time news updates, providing breaking news so

you can stay up to date with important developments from both home and abroad. It's great while on holiday overseas if you want to know what is going on at home but remember to use Wi-Fi. You don't want to be using up all your mobile data.

Having selected the microphone icon "back programmes" and podcasts can be selected



Having selected the search icon and entered a subject into the search bar the segment or programme can be retrieved. Some segments date back many years.



To select a live channel click arrow

Many of you may feel that you do not want to listen to the radio from your phone so I suggest that you acquire a smart speaker. An Amazon Echo Dot can be purchased for under \$50. Audio from your phone can then be sent to the speaker via Bluetooth.

K Senner May 2023

Kate's Take continued

Keeping us safe in Howick



Constable Craig Hammonds

Many thanks to Community Constable Craig Hammonds for his great talk at our meeting in May.

It is certainly good to know that we have such an experienced policeman looking after us. He has carried out frontline policing, traffic surveillance, supplied security for the Prime Minister and has been a community policeman in Pakuranga and Beachlands. He certainly knows our community very well.

After the Police Station closed in Moore Street, I had thought that our closest Police Station was in Ormiston so it came as a welcome surprise to learn that Howick has its own Community Police Station at 76, Cook Street.

It can be easily missed but it is located on the left-hand side of Cook

Street when driving out of Howick Village, about 50m beyond the Green Gables Cottage Art Gallery, Hawthornden Reserve.

Although it is permanently staffed by the police it is only open to the public two days a week, on a Monday and a Thursday from 9am to 4pm.

The first subject Constable Hammonds discussed was the danger of scam emails and text messages. These can come in many forms including demands for unpaid tolls, money required to release parcels from customs or even demands from the Inland Revenue.

Government departments do not communicate by text. He told us to look out for unusual aspects of the text and emails. Are there spelling mistakes? Has the phone number an overseas prefix? New Zealand phone numbers start with +64. Often these messages come from Australia. This is indicated by the +61 prefix.

Regarding emails, go to <https://www.dia.govt.nz>. At the Department of Internal Affairs web site, you will learn about Scams and Phishing and how to protect yourself. Constable Hammonds also told us to beware of "door knockers" who may offer to paint your fence, clean your roof or prune your trees.

They may offer a good price, ask for half the money in advance to buy the materials but then they may never be seen again. As the old adage goes, "If it seems too good to be true it probably is".

We were also warned not to take someone in a uniform at face value. He pointed out that no one had asked him for a form of identification. The uniform he was wearing could have been stolen or bought from the internet.

Don't let people look around your property. They may be holding a lead on the pretext of searching for their lost dog but their motives may be much more sinister. Tell them you will look, close and lock your door. Check, without opening the door confirm there is no dog, then, watch in which direction they go.

This is a common ruse so ring **111**, ask for the police or ring **105** which will take you directly to the police



**Howick Police Station
76 Cook Street**



Kate's Take continued

switchboard. We are the eyes and ears of the police. Your door knocker may be someone of interest to the police.

Hearing about a home invasion from the media, on a regular basis, can be very worrying as we get older. However, Constable Hammonds wanted to reassure us that home invasions are not a part of life in Howick. They are usually associated with rival gang activity.

With regard home security, Constable Hammonds is an advocate of security cameras but did point out that they should only be surveying your property and the road directly in front of your house. If they are capturing images from your neighbour's property you should always seek written permission.

At one time, these cameras were very expensive but they have come down in price (< \$200). They are readily available from companies such as Noel Lemmings, don't require to be wired in and can be controlled from your smart phone. Constable Hammonds is also an advocate of smart speakers and lights that can give the impression you are home at night when you are away.

Communitycam.co.nz is a recently created web site set up, as a not for profit community initiative, where people can register a property with a CCTV, and upload CCTV footage, to help solve crime in their neighbourhood.

Your details are confidential and secure. Only the NZ Police can see your information and, if you choose to upload your CCTV footage, the footage is password protected for your security. Communitycam just lets the police know who owns a CCTV system to save valuable time door-knocking.



If you have a Neighbourhood Support group in your locality this may be worth exploring. If you would like to set up a new Neighbourhood Support group, the police are happy to help you.

What number to call? The police can be contacted by phoning **111** or **105**. The **111** number should be used when an event is taking place with view to the police arresting a perpetrator at the scene or intervening to control a dangerous situation. The **105** number should be used after the event or in a non-urgent situation.

In the event of an incident on the road or you witness dangerous driving you may use your mobile phone to ring ***555**. This is a free call and is used to report road incidents which are urgent but not life-threatening. If you have a passenger with you they may be able to take photographs or video showing the number plate which can identify a culprit if the police decide to prosecute. Do not engage with a combative road user.



The ballistic vests worn by the police weigh between 10 and 15kg with armour at the front and back. The vests are designed to stop bullets. When the additional equipment is added the whole set-up weighs nearly 20kg.

The placement of the additional accoutrements added to the vest and belt are determined by each officer. Constable Hammonds always has his telescopic baton on the right side of his belt. He carries two sets of handcuffs, one at the front and one set on the back of his belt. If he is constraining an offender with the weight of his body, it is easier for him to access the handcuffs located at the back. The radio on his shoulder is plugged into an earpiece which is worn permanently so that he can hear instructions from base.

On the left side of his belt he carries pepper gel. The old spray was too

volatile causing both the offender and the police officer to be incapacitated. He also carries two torches, a first aid kit, gloves, a notebook and the taser gun which carries two cartridges. A shot from a taser emits 50,000 volts which immediately incapacitates the offender.

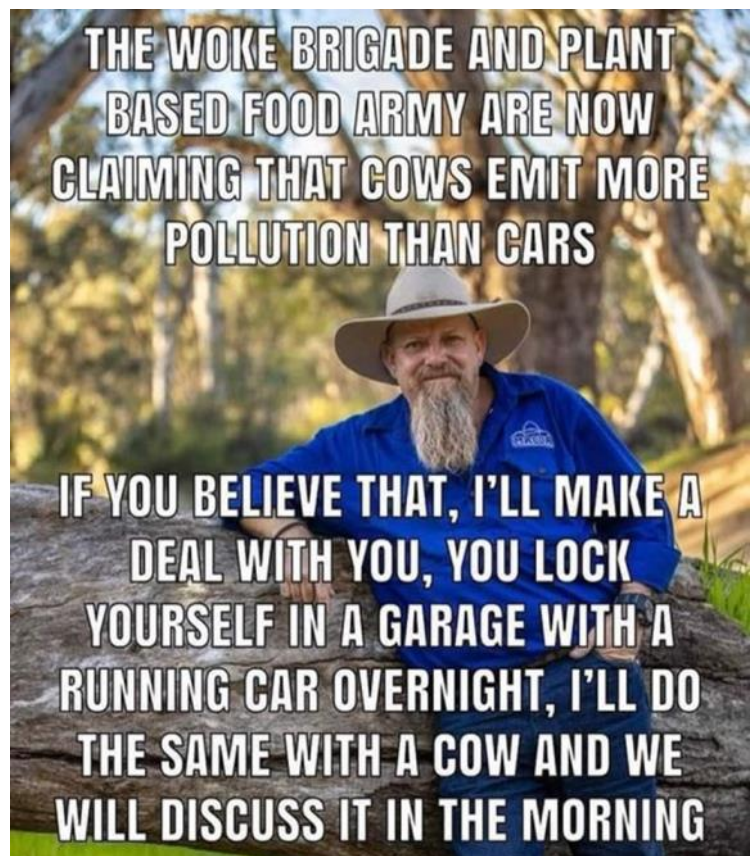
We would like to thank Constable Hammonds for his fascinating talk and for the work that he does to keep us all safe while putting himself in jeopardy on a daily basis. Thank you.

K Senner May 2023

**Comments, Queries,
Suggestions,
Free Advertising**

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COURSE TIMETABLES, HELP DAYS AND COURSE BOOKING INFORMATION

To view all SeniorNet courses and timetable, click here

<http://www.senpak.nz/courses/>

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Course Booking Information

- * You need to be a member of SeniorNet to take part in our classes.
- * If you need assistance in deciding on a course, please contact the Tutor who will answer any questions and also take your booking.
- * Our Courses are all held at our Learning Centre at
12 Ben Lomond Crescent, Pakuranga.
- * Please park on the road as no parking is permitted on site.
- * Note: We require you to pay a course fee to cover the cost of notes and other expenses. Please bring the correct cash to the first session.